

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /086 W

-----014522 141601Z /53

O R 141530Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7630
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2134

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 14, 1700 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2119 (DTG 141100Z APR 78)

1. AS OF 1700 HOURS, THE UNEASY CEASE-FIRE IN AYN AR-RUMMANEH
IS STILL HOLDING.

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2. PHALANGE NEWSPAPER AL AMAL ON APRIL 14 DECLARED IN ITS
LEAD STORY THAT FIGHTING RAISED NUMBER OF FATEFUL QUESTIONS:

A. WHAT IS ROLE OF LEBANESE AUTHORITIES IN MAINTAINING LAW AND
ORDER?

B. WHAT IS PRESIDENT'S ROLE AS COMMANDER OF ADF?

C. WHAT IS ROLE OF SYRIAN TROOPS IN ADF?

D. WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY OF SYRIAN TROOPS IN FAYYADIYAH INCIDENTS LAST MONTH?

E. DOES THE AGREEMENT WORKED OUT APRIL 13, WHEREBY SAUDI AND SUDANESE TROOPS HAVE SET UP A "SEPARATION" LINE BETWEEN SYRIAN TROOPS AND "LEBANESE" FORCES, CHANGE THE ROLE OF THE ADF?

AL AMAL CONCLUDED THAT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WOULD INDICATE WHETHER NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WAS POSSIBLE.

3. IN CONTRAST, FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAAM SAID THAT GOVERNMENT LEGALITY WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF ALL LEBANESE FACTIONS NOT SUBJECTED TO IT. HE HAD EARLIER SAID THAT ADF WAS ONLY LEGAL FORCE CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN LEBANON. IN RARE ACT OF APPARENT COOPERATION, LEFTIST MURABITUN, SYRIAN SOCIAL NATIONAL PARTY, AND LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY, ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT WITH PRO-SYRIAN BAATH PARTY AND KAMAL SHATILA'S PRO-SYRIAN UNION OF POPULAR LABOR FORCES, WHICH EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ADF AND FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SYRIA.

4. MEANWHILE, PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS MET APRIL 13 WITH YASSIR ARAFAT, FARUK QADDUMI, AND OTHER PLO OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR HOSS EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT SECURITY

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COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425. AFTER THE MEETING, PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PLO HAD ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER OF ITS DESIRE TO SEE LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND UNITY MAINTAINED.

5. UNLESS FIGHTING RESUMES IN AYN AR-RUMMANEH AREA, NEXT SITREP WILL BE ON APRIL 17.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT02134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0105
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780458/aaaabwyd.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a754a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 2119
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2971220
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 14, 1700 HOURS LOCAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a754a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014